



## Safe Kids Kansas 2006 POLICY PLATFORM

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

As part of Safe Kids Kansas' multifaceted approach to injury prevention, the Coalition annually adopts a policy platform and policy priorities. These policy initiatives endeavor to influence the laws, regulations and institutional policies that affect childhood safety and increase funding support for injury programs and research. The platform, along with legislative updates supports increased knowledge of current childhood injury policy issues among Coalition organizations and members, legislators, health professionals, and the general public.

The policy statements contained in the Platform are classified into four categories:

- **Actively Support:** To provide leadership for change regarding the policy issue.
- **Support:** To educate and/or testify regarding the policy issue.
- **Endorse:** Safe Kids Kansas is on record as supporting the policy. If legislation, ordinance, policies or funding become an issue, the Board of Directors decides whether to testify or present educational information on the issue.
- **Monitor:** Safe Kids Kansas will monitor the issue. If legislation, ordinance, policies or funding become an issue, the Board of Directors will make a policy recommendation to the Coalition.

### TRAFFIC INJURIES

#### *Motor Vehicle*

- Actively Support legislation designed to strengthen existing state child passenger restraint laws and improve their enforcement.

- Support legislation and agency policy at the national and local level to strengthen child passenger restraint laws and enforcement.
- Support legislative efforts at the state level that would require children ages 12 and younger to ride correctly restrained in the back seat.
- Endorse the provision of incentives for child safety seat use by public and private health insurance programs.
- Support legislative efforts at the state level to allow local enactment of red light running enforcement programs.
- Support efforts at the local level to enact red light running enforcement programs.
- Support legislation and agency policy at the state and local levels to strengthen the safety belt law and to improve enforcement of and compliance with existing laws
- Support efforts to educate the public about the dangers that passenger-side airbags pose to children ages 12 and younger riding in the front seat of vehicles.
- Endorse efforts at the national level to create airbags that are safe for motor vehicle passengers of all ages.
- Endorse public programs that provide child safety seats or incentives for purchase of child safety seats (including special needs seats) to low-income and disadvantaged families.
- Actively Support efforts to educate the public regarding the use of belt positioning boosters and increase the availability of boosters for children weighing between 40-80 lbs in vehicles equipped with lap/shoulder belts.
- Monitor legislative and agency efforts at the national and state level regarding the number of roadways in Kansas that allow double or triple trailer trucks.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the state level to limit the number of non-sibling minor passengers riding with fully licensed teen drivers.
- Support legislative efforts at the state level to prohibit leaving children unattended in motor vehicles.
- Monitor legislative efforts at the state level to limit children as passengers on a motorcycle.
- Support agency efforts at the national level to require annual collection and reporting of data on motor vehicle non-traffic, non-crash incidents resulting in unintentional injury or death.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the national level requiring safer motor vehicle design for children.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the national level requiring safer child safety seat design.

## ***School Bus***

- Support national, state and local level comprehensive standards to enhance school bus occupant protection.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts at the state and local level to comply with National Highway Transportation Safety Agency guidelines for transporting preschool children in school buses.

## ***Wheeled Sports Safety***

- Support local Coalitions, chapters, and community groups in their efforts to enact comprehensive and enforceable local bicycle helmet use ordinances.
- Endorse legislation at the state level to enact a comprehensive and enforceable mandatory bicycle helmet law.
- Endorse agency efforts to provide information to policy makers on the effectiveness of bicycle helmet legislation enacted in other states, and the financial cost of bicycle-related head injuries in Kansas.
- Support the efforts of public and private organizations to promote the use of bicycle helmets among children.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the state and local level regarding the appropriate use of motorized and non-motorized scooters by children.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the state and local level regarding the appropriate use by children of safety equipment for wheeled sports.

## ***All-Terrain Vehicles***

- Support the efforts of the Consumer Federation of America to request a ban by the Consumer Product Safety Commission of all-terrain vehicles for use by children.
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the state level regarding the use of all-terrain vehicles of any size by children.

## **FIRE AND BURNS**

### ***Scald Burns***

- Endorse the adoption of plumbing code language at the state and local level designed to reduce hot tap water scald burns to children.

## ***Fire Burns***

- Support agency initiatives to provide education about and compliance of the comprehensive smoke detector law in Kansas.
- Support legislation at the state or federal level to require reduced ignition propensity cigarettes which at the same time does not promote the increased use of tobacco products by youth.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts to make children's sleepwear more flame retardant.
- Endorse legislative and agency policies that limit children's access to lighters and enhance standards for child resistant lighters.
- Support the continuation of the active statewide juvenile fire-setter prevention and education program.
- Support national, state and local efforts to prohibit the sale of novelty lighters (cigarette lighters that are manufactured to resemble toys or other items that might be attractive to a young child).

## **DROWNING**

- Endorse the enactment of local ordinances requiring four-sided fencing of swimming pools on residential properties.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts at the national level to reduce injuries due to infant bath seats and bath rings.

## **FALLS**

- Endorse agency efforts at the local, state and national level to encourage public playgrounds to meet Consumer Product Safety Commission voluntary standards.

## **UNINTENTIONAL FIREARM INJURIES**

- Actively Support legislation at the state level to restrict children's access to firearms.
- Support the implementation of policies at the national and local levels which will restrict children's access to firearms.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts to provide oversight for handguns at the national level (Consumer Product Safety Commission or Department of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms; including the establishment of minimum safety standards and requiring recalls of defective products.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts to prohibit the manufacture or import of a

- firearm that does not have a load indicator or a childproof safety device.
- Endorse the retention of KSA 21-4201 regarding the possession and usage of weapons.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts at the National level to implement standards for gun locking devices.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts at the National level to continue to restrict new sales of assault weapons.

## **POISONING**

- Endorse the efforts of local Coalitions, chapters, and community groups to enact ordinances requiring carbon monoxide detectors in all residential dwellings that rely on the combustion of fossil fuel for heat, ventilation, or hot water.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts to reduce alcohol ingestion by children.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts to reduce the use of inhalants by children.
- Endorse the national accreditation of a poison control center for Kansas.

## **TOY AND CRIB SAFETY**

- Endorse the efforts of the Consumer Product Safety Commission to monitor industry compliance with the Child Safety Protection Act, the Labeling of Hazardous Materials Act and the Federal Hazardous Substances Labeling Act.
- Endorse legislative and agency efforts at the national level to reduce child deaths and injuries due to unsafe secondhand cribs.

## **CHILD CARE**

- Support licensing and certification requirements that include professionally recognized safety standards to ensure that all children are protected from potential hazards and injuries.

## **CARNIVAL AND AMUSEMENT PARK RIDES**

- Support strong state and federal regulations and oversight to protect children from unsafe products and poor maintenance of traveling carnival rides and fixed site amusement park rides.

## **HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN**

- Endorse legislative and agency efforts to ensure that quality emergency medical services are available to all children.
- Support agency efforts to include injury prevention initiatives in Healthy Start Home Visitor and other early childhood programs at the local level.
- Support the injury prevention activities of the Kansas Regional Trauma Councils.
- Endorse continuation and development of a health care system which ensures children's access to primary and preventive health care services, including services to prevent unintentional injury.

## DATA COLLECTION

- Support efforts to include E-codes, a supplement to the International Classification of Disease Codes, which would provide vital information about the cause and place of injury, in all hospital discharge summaries.
- Support efforts by the Kansas Child Death Review Board, the Kansas Health Policy Authority, the Kansas Advisory Committee on Trauma, and Kansas Department of Health and Environment to improve data collection on childhood injuries in Kansas.

## FUNDING FOR INJURY PREVENTION

- Actively Support funding for state and local injury prevention programs.
- Support adequate and stable funding levels for key injury prevention programs at the National level including:
  - < National Center For Injury Prevention and Control, CDC
  - < National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
  - < Maternal and Child Health Block Grant
  - < Emergency Medical Service for Children
  - < Preventive Health Block Grant
  - < Consumer Product Safety Commission
  - < United State Fire Administration
  - < Indian Health Service
  - < Poison Control Centers
  - < National Transportation Safety Board
  - < National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health
  - < National Fire Act
  - < Safe Kids Worldwide
- Support legislative and agency efforts at the national and state level to provide financial incentives for improved injury prevention programs.

